

Notes from the President

On the Road Again 7th Georgia Tour

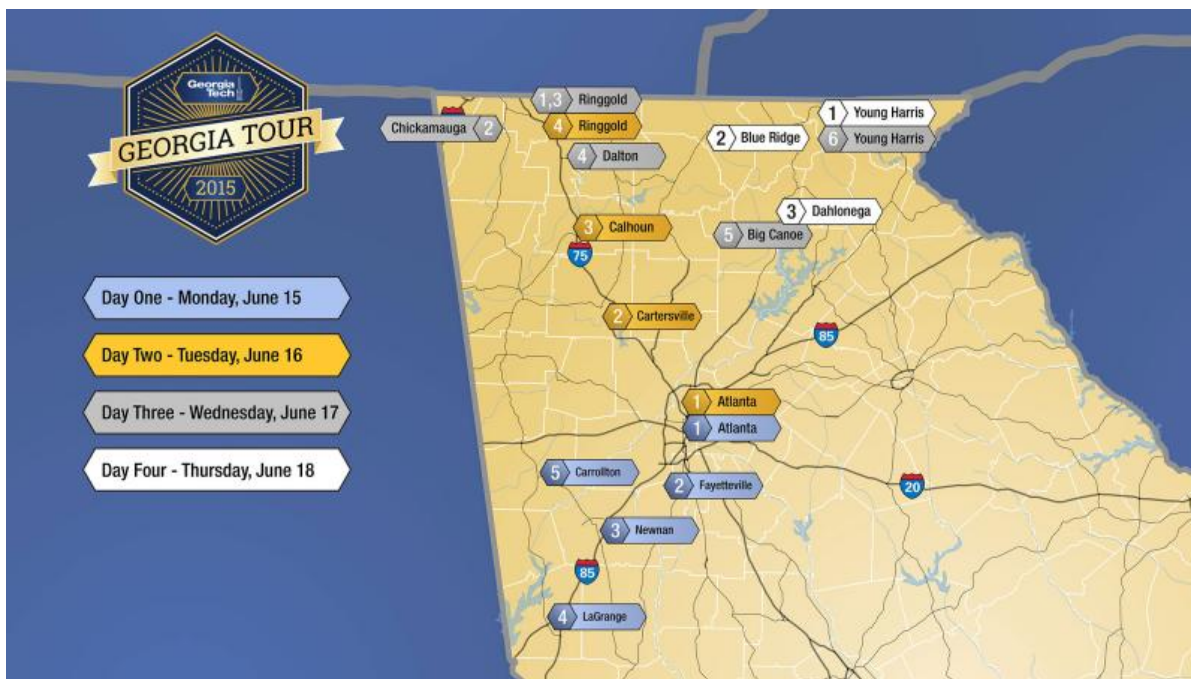
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On Monday, June 15, we headed out for our seventh Georgia tour since a little over six years ago when Val and I arrived here at Georgia Tech. We originally thought that we would only do our state tour for the first year or two, but we've continued it every year because it's such a great opportunity to meet the citizens of Georgia, current and prospective students, and people whose businesses Georgia Tech has helped to create or improve.

Our weeklong road trip across Georgia this year takes us south to Meriwether County and north to the state line in Walker County. We are traveling 650 miles, through nearly 30 counties, with 27 separate meetings, tours, and events in 13 cities.

Days 1-2: June 15-16



Monday morning began with a tour of Pinewood Studios in Fayetteville and breakfast with alumni and other friends at the studios. Dan Cathy, chairman, president, and CEO of Chick-fil-A, took Val and me on a personal tour and described the recent improvements. The next stop was Yokogawa's manufacturing operation in Newnan. Vice President Rich Westerfield led a tour of the facilities and introduced us to the many interns, Georgia Tech alumni, and parents of Tech students. In addition to partnering with Georgia Tech, Yokogawa employs around 10 Georgia Tech co-ops or interns at any one time and has hired many recent graduates. We enjoyed meeting with many of them, as well as with parents of graduates. They were easy to spot, because just about all of the "Yellow Jackets" at the plant had on their gold Yokogawa shirts for the day.

Our lunch stop was in LaGrange, where we visited with more alumni, parents, and students. While in LaGrange, we toured the Caterpillar – Forest Products Division site. President Kevin

Thieneman led the tour and we were able to meet many of the Georgia Tech students interning at Caterpillar.

The Carrollton Train Depot was the site of our reception with alumni and other friends Monday evening, and Tuesday evening's alumni reception was at the Ringgold Train Depot. It is appropriate that these meetings were at train depots, as it was on a train that the Ramblin' Wrecks got their name. On Nov. 4, 1893, Tech players rode a chartered train from Atlanta to Athens for the first football game in what would become a storied rivalry between Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia. Georgia Tech won 28-6. Skirmishes broke out in the stands, and Tech players and fans headed immediately to the train for an early departure back to Atlanta.



Georgia Tech Alumni and Co-op students at Yokogawa wear their gold company shirts to welcome the Petersons and other special guests.

As the train neared what is now Winder, Ga., it ran into the back of a freight train that had failed to respond to the signal to clear the track. Miraculously, none of the 151 passengers aboard the "Special" were seriously injured, but the passenger train was wrecked. The Georgia Tech team and fans had to board the freight train to get back to Atlanta. It was after midnight when the train pulled into the Union Station in Atlanta with its load of wreck survivors. The team and students were called the Ramblin' Wrecks, and the name stuck.

Tuesday also included a memorable visit to Cartersville, where Lorrie and Forrest McClain hosted a lunch for our local alums, parents, legislators, and prospective students at the Tellus Museum. It was wonderful to visit with so many loyal Yellow Jackets in such an incredible venue.

This week as we're ramblin' through Georgia, I continue to be impressed with the impact that our Institute, our students, and our faculty, staff, alumni, and friends are making on our state. Stay tuned.

G. P. "Bud" Peterson
President, Georgia Tech